

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

2/21/23

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Carol Limaye, Juan Pedro Maestre, Kay McMurry, Steve Camp, Karl Acuri, Marsha Riti

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, any statement is reflective of an individual board member and not the opinion of the Board as a whole.

Meeting called to order at 6:05

1. Plant Sale Report (Marsha & Karl)

Marsha: KLBJ am radio has been contacted and will promote on the 26th and after the sale. Texas Gardener Magazine will post in the newsletter and Instagram. CTG will advertise through their blog. The banner is hanging on Lamar. Promotional postcards have been distributed. (Note: Marsha is not happy with the cutting of the postcards; she recommends a different printer for next time. She suggests Quantum Digital Printing and getting 1000 cards since we are already out of the 500.) The T-shirts are almost all sold.

Karl: Yes Ma'am Marching Band will march in for the opening and the Ramsey Park Rounders will play, and then some buskers will entertain the lines. Silent Auction: Good community items are coming in. Karl will touch base with vendors about donations to the auction.

The refreshment sign up sheet is going well, but we still need more people to sign up. The herbs are doing great. Gabriel Valley Farms was visited and herbs were bought. Our plants look good. Last year there were lanky tomatoes; it won't happen this year. GVF plants (herbs, etc) need to go for \$3 per plant, not \$2 like the Sunshine herbs, and Marsha and the cashier leads are working hard to get the message out about GVF plants at \$3.

Signs are made by Irina. Plant lists are formatted by Debra and they are well condensed with the information for printing. The print price should be reduced this year.

Last Sunday's workday was a success and it had a better turnout in preparation for the sale. Tents will be set up Thursday the 23rd. Centex rentals says the

tents will be fine and more durable than years past. We will mention to gardeners that the tent set up will occur Thursday the 23rd.

We still need more compost movers at 12:30-2:30 time. ZCs may want to send out an email requesting gardeners to sign up to help.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to get their plants on the Friday before the sale. Volunteers are set for the Friday sale to members.

Post sale: Plants for schools and possibly others (Jim)

When the sale closes Sunday afternoon we will have a better idea of what is left for schools and post sales. The biggest change is that we will pull some plants for schools to allow them to receive more variety of plants. Half for sale; half for schools. There was some concern about advertising post sales to the general public since we rely on the honor system for payment with post sales. The KLBJ ad for March 5th could be pulled. Marsha, Karl, Carol and Debra will work out the logistics of the post sale advertising to the general public.

Do we want to make sure that we give schools a selection to make sure they get a variety? One member expressed concern that schools may be happy with whatever we have left over rather than taking away from paying customers. Board consensus, however, was that we will divide the plants for schools and post sales.

2. Minutes and Plot Report

Approval of minutes (Kerry)

January board minutes (distributed)

Minutes Passed.

February all-gardeners meeting (if available)

There was one typo that Carol will correct. February AGM minutes Passed.

Plot Report(Kay)

The list has declined to 119 people. 17 plots were reassigned between Dec and Feb 21. Seven plots are awaiting reassignment: 5 full; 2 half. Kay advocated again for quarter plots as more people want quarter or half plots than full plots, according to Kay's waitlist.

3. Treasurer Report and 2023 Billing Results (Debra, Carol)

Dues collected, unpaid invoices, unworked hours, contributions to ABCTX, etc.

Bills are low this month: \$311 water bill in Jan. Pest management and Waste Management are close to \$500/month– our biggest expenses. The ant drench is expensive. Dry molasses is one suggestion for a potential cheaper way of ant abatement.

There was a suggestion to crunch numbers regarding the dumpster changes for the garden waste. For the next meeting (March) Debra and Carol are requested to give a spreadsheet about the changes in numbers for the dumpster management.

Billing: We have 5 people who haven't paid renewal. Reminder letters were sent out yesterday. 3 have not been sent invoices because of compliance issues. One person we have no response from. A letter of termination with a 7 day grace period will be sent. However, the board felt that the numerous emails to this gardener that have received no answer, along with phone messages that have not been acknowledged, have been sufficient in alerting the gardener to the issue. Consensus was for Feb. 1 to be the termination date for this non-responsive gardener. We allowed an extra week for payments because of the freeze. Of the noncompliant plots we are not sure about two of them: whether they will stay or go.

Motion: The nonresponsive gardeb member is not eligible to renew his/her plot.

Seconded; passed unanimously.

Ron Valentine has vacated the area.

Quarter plot gardeners are not as involved in working hours as other gardeners, it appears. Of the total quarter plots, what percentage of quarter plots don't work hours? This is another question posed, and general studying by Jim suggests that half and quarter plots are close in that about 15% do not work service hours.

4. New Site Rule Re Billing Walkthrough Process

a. Results of process this year

b. Decision needed

Does the board agree with Debra, Carol, Steve and Jim that addressing the walkthrough process in the billing section of rules is desirable? Although no decision will be made on the rule language until the March meeting, Jim would like to know if there is a consensus so that draft policies can be further developed. The email with draft rule language was sent out before the January meeting, and it will be resent. The proposed rule language probably needs some fine-tuning in light of lessons learned this year.

We do have some bylaw direction that hardcopies must be sent before termination.

Is everyone agreeable with putting something in the site rules that addresses the non-walk through process?

The site rules would set parameters for the board's discretion.

The informal Consensus was that exploring the site rules should proceed. There was one abstention in agreeing to proceed.

5. Raised Bed Expansion Update and Layout and Estimated Cost (Jim)

There is agreement from the gardener in the raised bed area to relocate.

a. Attached is a cost estimate and layout for adding six beds. We would probably not do all the beds at one time but rather start with three.

Cost would be right at \$5000.00 including redoing the boundaries. Can we consult someone about accessibility for the raised beds? There are contacts being made with the disability community. Is the board okay with spending \$5000 to increase the raised bed area? What ground surface works best for wheelchairs?

There was unanimous consensus to proceed (subject to accessibility review) and incur the cost.

b. Grant application to cover costs (Debra & Carol)

Last year's Children's Garden application invited us to reapply for additional money this year. We would like to continue to ask for the material cost for the raised beds. It would require an application and budget. It would be a good collaboration. The grantor is trying to finish giving off the money to an already vetted organization. Debra will proceed with applying for this grant. We will add a picture of the progress on the children's garden.

6. Notifying Waste Management That We Will Not Renew our Contract (Debra, Carol, Steve, Jim)

There are concerns about the contract with WM, and it is automatically renewed unless notified in the 180-90 day window before the contract ends in early July. Should we give notification of withdrawal? They are extremely uncooperative. Is there an alternative to WM? There may be 4-5 waste disposal companies, but we will have to check into this. A local company would likely be better. We will plan to not renew our contract with WM and explore what else is available to us. We will give notice of non renewal and in the meantime we will figure out the costs that would occur with a change. The Board is in consensus with this proposal.

7. New gardener rule (Jim)

Review of feedback from ZCs but no action will be taken until March meeting.

We may want to clarify the carry-over of hours rule. Jim will look at making it easier to apply as a rule and provide more details at the next meeting. The board is invited to review the rule suggestions and make comments. Current gardeners may be upset with the carry over rule for new gardeners.

8. Nancy Gay email request re "Friends of Sunshine" membership category. (Jim) *See Nancy Gay's email forwarded to board on 2/17*

Non Current garden members can continue participation in the garden as it stands now, and they can continue getting the WW. There was discussion about creating a group "Friends of Sunshine" who would get notifications about tasks that could help involve alumni gardeners or folks who want to help in the garden.

9. Adopt-A-Fence Panel Program Update (Jim)

20 people have adopted panels. It doesn't seem to be working. We will provide more details next month. No one is sure why it isn't working. What do we do with the panels that aren't adopted?

Motion to adjourn at 7:50; seconded.

Adjourned at 7:50